

# ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

Theophilus Osei

# CERTAINTY IN AN UNCERTAIN WORLD

- There are so many uncertainties in our world.
  - We do not know how secure our jobs are.
  - We have no guarantees about our health
  - We have no guarantees about our safety (where will you be during next terrorists attack?)
  - When don't know when the next war will come
  - Disasters whether natural or not come and go as they please – without announcement
  - We live in a world of uncertainty - expecting the unexpected
- But there's one thing we can find certainty in – we can be certain about our relationship with God and the gift of everlasting life

## ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

- It is possible to have assurance of salvation
- It is possible to say, yes, God has saved me and by His grace you will continue to keep me!
- The Christian should not be walking around fearful & anxious that they are going to hell (if they haven't forsaken God)

## COMMON MISUNDERSTANDINGS

- 1. Some people think that only sinless persons can know that they are saved
  1. No one is sinless (save Jesus)
    1. Imagine the Prodigal makes a mistake in his father's house after he has returned home. Does the father right away kick him out of the house? (Luke 15:11-32)
    2. The Father might reprove him & tell him such behavior is unacceptable, but the son remains a son – he is not disowned, neglected or abandoned (1 John 1:9)
    3. **A TRUE christian is not a sinless individual but someone who's goal is not to sin – someone who earnestly strives not to sin because they do not want to displease their Lord!** Not about **Christian perfection-its about saintly progression** – everyday with Jesus refines our character – walking with Jesus ought to make us better today than we were 5 years ago – we must always be growing, better each day, overcoming each day

His/her constant daily prayer is: “Lord help me to abide in you, help me to please you, help me to honor you in everything I do!”

## COMMON MISUNDERSTANDING

- 2. Others follow the motto: “Once saved, always saved;” it does not matter much how you live after you have been saved
  - 1. This teaching is a grave mistake because it is contrary to the teaching of many passages in scripture
    - **Revelation 3:11** for example rejects such an idea

## COMMON MISUNDERSTANDING

- 3. Still others believe that certainty of salvation depends on emotions. If you feel that you are saved, you are saved; if not then you are not saved
  - The sick man at the Pool of Bethesda obeyed Jesus' command before feeling that he was healed. John 5:1-9
  - The 10 lepers who were healed were told to go and show themselves to the priests – the bible says it was as they were going—on the way to the priests that they were healed [Luke 17:11-14]
    - When they left Jesus' presence, they were still sick lepers; they didn't feel healed – but they went **IN FAITH** & as they went on their way, they received healing – feelings are not always the best barometer – you might not feel God but it doesn't mean he's absent
- Certainty of salvation has to do with faith. Feelings are secondary (Heb 11:6; Rom 1:17).

## PERSONS WHO HAD CERTAINTY

- 1) Moses -Exod 32:32 (for the “book” see Rev 20:15)
- (2) Peter -1 Pet 5:1
- (3) Paul -2 Tim 4:7, 8
- (4) Christians in Ephesus-Eph 2:8
- (5) Christians in Colossae-Col 1:12-14

## PERSONS WHO HAD CERTAINTY

- Some may argue that we cannot compare ourselves with these persons. But they were sinners like we are: Moses was a murderer turned saint; Peter betrayer of Jesus turned Disciple; Paul was a persecutor turned Apostle; and the believers in Ephesus and Colossae were not sinless (see their struggles in Eph 4:25-32; Col 3:2-13). Though they were imperfect they grow in Christ daily
- Certainty of one's salvation is a certainty pertaining to being in good **RELATIONSHIP** with God (if I have a good relationship with the judge of all the earth-surely when He comes to judge the world He will Remember Me)
- Certainty of one's salvation is not a boastful, arrogant, chest pounding declaration to the world that you're holier than thou and ready for heavenly translation. Rather it is a quiet confidence-not in your own works but in the work of Christ in your life – a confidence in the death of Christ on your behalf (see – Ephesians 2:8-9 “Salvation is not of works, lest any man should boast!”) Anyone boasting that they're saved, probably isn't – it is not a boastful thing

## PERSONS WHO HAD CERTAINTY

- Suppose you're out and about sharing books or glow tracts with people in the community – preaching and telling people to accept Jesus so that they might be saved when he comes to take his faithful people home.
- As you're sharing this good news someone comes up to you and says, “sir/madam, you are saying if I accept Jesus into my life I will be saved...my question is, are you certain that you are going to be saved when he comes?”
- What would your answer be? If you, yourself are not certain of the salvation of Jesus Christ – what exactly are you selling/sharing with others?
- Should you be telling people to come, accept Jesus and they will ‘maybe,’ ‘possibly,’ ‘if all goes well’ be saved? There is certain salvation in Jesus (if we remain in Jesus) that is the gospel we ought to be sharing with the world!)

## GOD'S WISH FOR US

- The Bible offers us wonderful assurance:
  - (1) John 3:16, 36 – whosoever believes Shall be Saved!
  - (2) John 5:24
  - (3) John 20:30, 31
  - (4) Rom 8:1
  - (5) I John 5:11-13 -It is God's will for us of to have assurance of salvation.

# THE NEED OF CERTAINTY OF SALVATION

- 1. Assurance is necessary in order to have the right relationship to God
  - When you have assurance of God's salvation you are full of inexpressible joy and gratitude to God!
- 2. Assurance is necessary in order to have the right relationship to fellow humans.
  - When you have assurance of God's salvation in your gratitude to God you will love and do good works toward your fellow man-not so you can be saved but because you are saved! This saves us from legalism (from trying to earn heaven)
- 3. Assurance is needed for our own psychological well-being, e.g., to experience joy, fearlessness, and serenity.
  - When you have assurance of God's salvation you have that 'peace that passes all understand,' 'you inexpressible' 'no fear'
- 4. Assurance is needed when it comes to dying (2 Sam 23:1-5).
  - Quiet peace even in death

## HOW TO FIND CERTAINTY

- Acts 16:31 -“What must I do to be saved.” “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved.”
  - True belief in Jesus bears tangible fruit in our lives

## FIVE STEPS MAY BE HELPFUL

- 1) **Recognize that God loves you** and has a plan for your life (John 3:16; 10:10)
- (2) **Accept that you are a sinner and cannot save yourself**. As sinners we are separated from God, have to expect death, and cannot bridge the chasm which exists between God and us (Rom 3:23; Isa 59:2)
- (3) **Recognize that in Jesus Christ God has prepared the only way out** of our dilemma. By dying in our place Jesus has bridged the chasm (Rom 5:8; John 14:6)
- (4) **Accept Jesus as Savior and Lord** (John 1:12; 6:47-48, 54) **by faith** (Acts 16:31; Eph 2:8-9). Invite him to take complete control over your life
- (5) **Rely on God's promises**, not your feelings. If you have accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord, trust the divine promise that you now have everlasting life (**1 John 5:11-13**)
- (6) **Maintain your relationship** with the Lord by daily talking to him in prayer and listening to his Word, by seeking the fellowship of the believers and sharing Jesus with others

## CLASSIC STATEMENT ON ASSURANCE – 2 TIM 4:6-8

- Notice these three Points!
- I. Paul is at the end of his earthly life.
- 2 Tim 4:6: “For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.”
- His probation is about to close. Notice what he bases his hope on, as he stands at the close of his probation.
- Verse 7. “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”

## CLASSIC STATEMENT ON ASSURANCE – 2 TIM 4:6-8

- 2. Paul's assurance is not based on sinless perfection, but on persisting in a faithful relationship with Christ. He stayed in the fight, to the end of the race. On this basis, he had no doubt about the outcome:
- Verse 8. "Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day."

## ILLUSTRATION

- In the 16<sup>th</sup> century, an Anabaptist on trial for his life, had just heard the Inquisitor pronounce the double sentence of a martyr's death and eternal damnation. In response, the Anabaptist quoted this text to the priest:
- “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day.”

## ILLUSTRATION

- Heretic! cried the Inquisitor. How dare you claim for yourself the words of the holy Apostle? There is no salvation for you!”
- The Anabaptist calmly replied, “On the contrary, Paul’s words are a promise to every believer: **“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**”
- **Can you say that? If not, why not? Today, make your calling and election SURE, start a relationship with Jesus today!**